

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED *yes*  
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1** NAME

HISTORIC

Reeble Storage and Moving Company

AND/OR COMMON

**2** LOCATION (Mayor Michael Bilandic, 121 N. La Salle, Chgo., 60602)

STREET & NUMBER - 33

2325 North Clark Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Chicago, Illinois

VICINITY OF

Cook

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

012

031

**3** CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4** OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Leo Licata (agent for Allied Van Lines)

STREET & NUMBER

2325-33 North Clark Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Chicago

VICINITY OF

Illinois

**5** LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder & Registrar of Titles, City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

118 North Clark Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Chicago

Illinois

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS None

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

## Exterior

Reebie Storage and Moving Company is a six-story, flat-roofed warehouse of reinforced concrete and brick with glazed white and polychrome cladding and sculpture on the first and second stories of the west facade (street). The building is square shaped on a rectangular lot, with a one-story commercial building abutting the north side. Built in neo-classical Egyptian style, most of the structure's facade projects slightly so that a battered-wall effect is achieved. A polychrome terra cotta cavetto cornice decorated with scarabs was removed in 1971 due to lightning damage and eroded supports which endangered its collapse and that of the upper story facade. (A fragment of the cornice has been preserved in the warehouse.)

The ground story of white terra cotta slabs consists of five columns with polychrome capitals of palm fronds and lotus flowers and buds; the lower section of the shafts, without bases are sculpted lotus and papyrus rising from waters, represented by a saw-toothed pattern. Between the columns and at the ends of the facade are five windows and a doorway--each recessed and containing a transom with a wide horizontal terra cotta transom bar decorated with scarabs and bearing the words, "Reebie" (appears above windows at each end), "Fireproof", "Storage", the address, and "Removals". Beneath the sills of the two end windows, the leaf and papyrus design and its background become convex near the street pavement. Beneath the other three sills is wrought iron work with spear-headed rails. Ground story windows are plate glass.

The doorway includes a bronze door with plate glass inset and the following iron work: roll or rope-like molding and lotus and papyrus in grids in front of the sidelights and lower transom. The enframing for the doorway and two transoms is polychrome slabs and molded terra cotta. Beside the two transoms are two plaques (two heads each) of the cow-eared Egyptian goddess Hathor, two scarabs and two statues of pharaoh Ramesses II atop two engaged pylon-shaped pedestals. Each statue wears the royal striped headdress, the kilt with cartouche buckle bearing the name in hieroglyphs, and carries a djed pillar (protection) and flail (authority). Both statues and pedestals are joined to the terra cotta facade slabs.

Hieroglyphs on the front of the pedestal of the left statue are translated: "Forever I work for all of your regions in daylight and darkness"; the other, "I give protection to your furniture". Each side reads, "Reebie Brother" (Each pharaoh represents William and John, the founders).

The white terra cotta architrave has two molded scarabs. Formerly, "W.C. Reebie & Brother" appeared in the area between the scarabs.

The cornice between the ground and second stories bears a winged serpent and sun disk and a partial heker (Egyptian royalty) pattern stretching across the length of the cornice.

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Of the 20 smaller recessed sash windows of the facade, the four across the second story are designed with terra cotta roll or rope-like molding and a winged scarab cavetto cornice window head. Also part of the enframement are two papyrus stems rising to the top of the cornice, and the papyrus heads extend beyond the cornice top.

Interior

The interior walls and decorative elements are plaster compounds of various textures and coloring.

The enclosed foyer contains iron roll or rope-like molding and lotus and papyrus in gridwork on both sides of the inner brass door's sidelights. A tiffany-type lantern of lotus buds and six fixed windows of lotus and papyrus stained glass and clear panes are also part of the enclosure. The lobby side of the door bears a painted molded-plaster winged scarab above the iron molding.

The warehouse lobby, used and designed as office space, contains four columns and abaci supporting a square section of dropped ceiling that is recessed to hold a concealed lighting track for illuminating the partial heker (Egyptian royalty) pattern.

The capitals are stylistic papyrus and lotus with geometric and foliate forms; the length of each shaft is decorated with four narrow strips topped with a leaf near the lowest edge of the capital.

The southeast corner of the office is enclosed by a rightangular shaped counter with a rounded corner and a black marble top. The wall of the counter is molded plaster in a repetitive pattern of stems, lotus buds and papyrus rising from a saw-toothed pattern representing water. Above the design is a roll or rope-like molding. A gate of brass designed with the two plants in a grid allows access to the enclosed area. The same design appears in iron in front of all ground story windows; the four on the south wall are framed by the roll or rope-like molding in plaster.

On each of the four walls are two rectangular engaged columns, like pilasters, with molded plaster lotus and papyrus on stalks stretching the length of the column. Either three lotus or three papyrus plants decorate the columns. Between the upper sections of the columns are 31 plaster plaques of four different designs. There are 12 plaques with two identical heads each of the cow-eared goddess Hathor with pylon headdress, and 12 with serpentine headdress (one plaque contains only one head so as to fit in a corner on the west wall). These plaques have a bottom

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border of marguerites and mandrake roots.

Four sun bark panels depict the scene explained in the hieroglyphs translated: "Harakte pulls the daytime bark of Re (the sun) upon the eastern horizon, and Thot (god of the moon) turns to Re in the sky. The sunlight reaches the walls of the pyramids and sails swiftly across the sky."

Three Nile bark panels depict the scene reading: "Behold the cargoes swiftly sent upon the Nile flood (the god Hapi) in the time of the pharaohs. Behold, here is the ship's captain saluting the Egyptian crew. Upper Egyptian barley consigned to the Delta is transported upon the Nile flood. Behold here is barley received in exchange for the game of the Aegean Islanders." Beneath all panels is a concealed track for lighting.

Two doors leading to the warehouse are adorned with plaster enframements of roll or rope-like molding and scarab on a lintel-like form.

The vault for valuables consists of a bronze door and wide frame with a tiffany-like lotus bud lantern and winged scarab cavetto cornice above. Roll or rope-like molding adorns the pilaster-like projection that is part of the enframingent.

The north wall contains panels of stained glass of lotus and papyrus design and panels of clear panes. Five sections of glass are mixed stained and clear glass.

Alterations occurred on the exterior; brickwork on the upper four stories was replaced when the cornice atop the structure was removed.

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Bibliography: Stadler, Roberta. "Reebie Warehouse: King Tut on Clark Street." Inland Architect, Vol. 21, No. 3 (March, 1977), 22-24.

Interviews: Periodically since 1974--Harold Allen, prof. emeritus of School of the Art Institute, for photo archives of neoclassical Egyptian style; Dr. Chas. Nims, Oriental Institute. 1976--Curators of Art Institute and Field Museum. 1977--Trygbe Kristiansen, past pres. of North Western T.C. Co. 1976-78--Art Jenner, craftsman of same co., who worked with Fritz Albert. 1978--Chas. Steers, friend of Albert and collector of Albert works and history.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES completed 1923

BUILDER/ARCHITECT George S. Kingsley

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This example of neoclassical Egyptian architecture is unique in its terra cotta craftsmanship and its conception; namely, the moving business and security theme is carried out on the interior as well as the exterior. Designs were not merely copied, as is true of many existing examples of this generally eclectic style, but were imaginatively created and particularized for the Reebie brothers. No other building of this type in Chicago is as elaborate in its detail and polychrome work, and perhaps very few others in the nation are as whimsical or bear as much concern for the ancient Egyptian language or mythology.

Other than the removal of the upper cornice, the appearance of the interior and exterior remains as it was in 1923. However, vandalism to the terra cotta sculpture on the exterior warrants restoration before damage becomes too acute to deal with. Replacement of the cornice would complete the effect meant to be achieved during the Egyptian revival.

Since terra cotta structures have passed as an era of architectural history and since the craftsmanship involved is now reduced to only one company in the United States--Gladding McBean--it seems that specimens of this type should be evaluated. Also, since the use of the building has not changed, the "Egyptian" form has truly followed function.

The building stands as a monument to the Reebie family, who sold the building in 1973, and to Fritz Albert, the North Western Terra Cotta Company sculptor (from the 1920's to 1930) who was responsible for the design of the decorative elements and hieroglyphs. What seems to be his own knowledge of hieroglyphs and sources, as evidenced by other recently found works, makes the structure an even more personalized endeavor.

The consistent quality of the sculptural elements cannot be overlooked, even if they are not "high" art, nor can the craftsmanship of the terra cotta processes be separated from the sculptor's conception to balance an eclectic style and an ancient source.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lot 5 in Foster Sub of that pt of Blk 3 lying S of the E & W center line of Blks 2 & 3 of Canal Trustees Sub of the N $\frac{1}{2}$  N $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  E $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec 33-40-14. N 218.6' S 188.65 W (street) 114.5 E 33.2.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Roberta Stadler

October 11, 1978

ORGANIZATION

DATE

1246 West Argyle Street

(312) 728-9134

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Chicago

Illinois

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION